



Press Release

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Date: April 3, 2006

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COAST GUARD DEPLOYS TO RED RIVER FLOOD

ST. LOUIS – A Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) consisting of approximately 20 members of Coast Guard units around the Upper Mississippi River area, to include active duty, reserve, and auxiliary personnel, have deployed on Monday, April 3, 2006 to St. Paul, MN where they will be ready to assist with flood response operations. The Red River, which runs along the North Dakota and Minnesota state boarder, is expected to peak on Wednesday, April 6, 19 feet above flood level, only 2 feet below the record flood level back in 1997.

Deployed units include the Marine Safety Office in St. Louis; Group Upper Mississippi River in Keokuk, IA; Marine Safety Detachment in St. Paul, MN; Marine Safety Detachment in Quad Cities, Coast Guard Cutter Wyaconda homeported in Dubuque, IA; the Shore Side Detachment in Peoria, IL; and members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary from St. Louis and St. Paul.

Disaster Assistance Response Teams (DART) are specialized teams for flood response and humanitarian aid. Each DART consists of 18 members, 6 aluminum flood punts equipped with 25 horsepower engines, and rescue and survival equipment. These are the same teams which the Coast Guard deployed for Hurricane Katrina rescues in September 2005.

For additional information on this event, please contact the Marine Safety Office St. Louis Public Affairs Officer, LTJG Christian Barger, at 314-539-3091, ext. 3211.

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